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Origl American Historical
Assoc.

Origl NATIONAL Intelligence
Study Center

FEDERAL HISTORIANS CONFERENCE

The second conference of Federal Historians, sponsored by the Federal Resource Group of the National Coordinating Committee for the Promotion of History and the Department of Energy, was held in Washington, DC on September 13, 1979. The National Coordinating Committee is currently a consortium of twenty-five historical organizations; it was founded in 1976 by the AHA, the Organization of American Historians, and the Southern Historical Association. The conference was planned by a committee chaired by Ronald Specter of the U.S. Army Center of Military History. Other members of the planning committee were Fred Beck of the Office of the Chief of Engineers, Karl Cocke of the Center of Military History, Edie Hedlin of the National Historical Publications Commission, Morris MacGregor of the Center of Military History and J. Samuel Walker of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission. Approximately two hundred historians representing more than thirty historical programs within the federal government attended the meeting, which was held at the Department of Energy.

RESOLUTION ON THE HISTORICAL OFFICE OF THE CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

Taking cognizance of the fact that the historical office of the Central Intelligence Agency is scheduled to be abolished and its functions absorbed by administrative personnel who may not be historians;

And being convinced that this is a backward step for an agency that has in its trust the records without which the full record of the nation's foreign relations can never be written adequately, and without which even the future needs of the agency itself cannot be met;

And being further convinced that the interests of the federal historical program in general can only suffer by the disestablishment of the historical office of an agency as important as that of the Central Intelligence Agency;

BE IT RESOLVED by the federal government historians, representing the historical agencies of the federal government, meeting on September 13, 1979:

THAT the Director of Central Intelligence be urged to reconsider the scheduled disestablishment of his historical office and give it new life and purpose to the end that historians may continue to serve the needs of his agency and the broad interests of the general public.

NATIONAL INTELLIGENCE STUDY CENTER AWARDS

Two of the first three awards for writing on intelligence made by the National Intelligence Study Center (NISC) were granted for works on recent history. The two books that shared the cash prize for the best book on intelligence published or written during 1978 were *Perjury: The Hiss-Chambers Case* by Dr. Allen Weinstein, professor of history at Smith College, and *Piercing the Reich* by Joseph Persico, a study of OSS operations against Nazi Germany in World War II. NISC awards for research and writing by an American on intelligence are presented for a book, a scholarly article, and a journalistic series or individual piece.

Although the book award is set at \$1000, the awards panel, in dividing the first book award, presented \$750 to each of the award winners. The third selection made, a \$500 prize for the best scholarly article, was presented to Dr. Richard K. Betts of the Brookings Institution for an article published in *World Politics* (October 1978) entitled "Analysis, War and Decision: Why Intelligence Failures Are Inevitable." The panel chose not to award a prize the first year for journalistic writing.

The National Intelligence Study Center was established in Washington, DC in 1978 to assist scholars and others writing and conducting research about intelligence and national decision making, intelligence activities in a democratic society, and related subjects. Activities of the Center include bibliographical support, research assistance, operation of a library and reading room, publications describing efforts of national organizations to improve public understanding of intelligence activities, and a survey of college courses on intelligence.

The Center Board and Advisory Board include a number of university professors interested in studies on intelligence, among them Professor Eugene Rostow of the Yale University Law School, Professor Lyman Kirkpatrick of Brown University, and Dr. Jules Davids, professor of U.S. diplomatic history, Georgetown University, who was co-chairman of the awards panel. Dr. Ray S. Cline, director of studies at the Center for Strategic and International Studies, is president of the Center.

NISC is interested in receiving from members of the AHA suggestions for books and other writing that might be considered for the 1979 and subsequent Center awards, and information on existing course materials covering intelligence activities. It is also interested in having more historians as members. In addition, it welcomes ideas on application of oral history techniques to historical aspects of intelligence, and on expansion of historical treatments of intelligence activities more generally.

Inquiries about NISC and its awards program should be addressed to Martin G. Cramer, Executive Director, National Intelligence Study Center, Suite 701, 919 18th Street NW, Washington, DC 20006.

EXCERPTS